

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS AND LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-12. (Canceled)

Claim 13. (Currently amended) The material of claim ~~12~~ 51 that has normalized drying power energy of at least about 6000 ergs/g.

Claim 14. (Currently amended) The material of claim ~~12~~ 51 at has normalized wicking energy of at least about 3000 ergs/g.

Claims 15-17. (Canceled)

Claim 18. (Currently amended) The material of claim ~~12~~ 51 wherein the cellulosic fibers have a relative crystallinity of less than about 60 percent.

Claims 19-20. (Canceled)

Claim 21. (Currently amended) The material of claim ~~12~~ 51 wherein at least some of the cellulosic fibers are obtained from pulp having a Kappa value of less than about 75.

Claims 22-24. (Canceled)

Claim 25. (Currently amended) The material of claim ~~12~~ 51 wherein at least some of the cellulosic fibers have been made by a process that includes the step of treating a liquid suspension of pulp at a temperature of from about 15°C to about 60°C with an aqueous alkali metal salt solution having an alkali metal salt concentration of from about 2 weight percent to about 25 weight percent of said solution for a period of time ranging from about 5 minutes to about 60 minutes.

Claims 26-29. (Canceled)

Claim 30. (Currently amended) The material of claim ~~12~~ 51 having a basis weight of from about 100 g/m² to about 250 g/m².

Claim 31. (Currently amended) The material of claim ~~12~~ 51 having a basis weight of from about 350 g/m² to about 450 g/m².

Claim 32. (Currently amended) The material of claim ~~12~~ 51 having a density of from about 0.30 to about 0.45 g/cc.

Claim 33. (Canceled)

Claim 34. (Currently amended) The material of claim ~~12~~ 51 that contains from about

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20 to about 40 weight percent superabsorbent material.

Claim 35. (Currently amended) The material of claim †2 51 that has normalized drying power energy of at least 7000 ergs/g.

Claims 36-38. (Canceled)

Claim 39. (Currently amended) The material of claim †2 51 that has normalized wicking energy of at least 3500 ergs/g.

Claims 40-44. (Canceled)

Claim 45. (Currently amended) The material of claim †2 51 that has normalized wicking energy of at least 3500 ergs/g.

Claims 46-47. Canceled)

Claim 48. (Currently amended) An absorbent article comprising the absorbent material of claim †2 51.

Claims 49-50. (Canceled)

Claim 51. (New) An absorbent material consisting essentially of: a) from about 40 weight percent to about 90 weight percent of air laid cellulosic fibers wherein (1) at least some of said cellulosic fibers are obtained from pulp having a Kappa value of less than about 100, and (2) at least some of said cellulosic fibers have a relative crystallinity of less than about 65 percent; and b) from about 10 weight percent to about 60 weight percent of superabsorbent material, said fibers and said superabsorbent material having been compacted together after air laying to a density of from about 0.25 g/cc to about 0.5 g/cc and having a suppleness of greater than about 0.7 g⁻¹.